

Message Text

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53

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCA-01 PPT-02 INR-10 CIAE-00

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R 041250Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2688

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC UR

SUBJ: FOLLOW-UP WITH INTOURIST ON AIRPORT DETENTIONS

REF: MOSCOW A-507, HELSINKI 2253

1. AT RECENT RECEPTION CONSOFF INFORMED INTOURIST WESTERN HEMI-SHPERE DIRECTOR ZAVORIN OF FORMAL EMBASSY APPROACH TO MFA CONCERNING DETENTION OF AMCITS ARRIVING USSR WITH INCORRECTLY ISSUED VISAS. (FYI: ZAVORIN HAD ENCOURAGED SUCH APPROACH DURING EARLIER MEETING WITH CONSOFFS AT HIS INTOURIST OFFICE, MOSCOW MEMCON AUGUST 17.) ZAVORIN APPEARED PLEASED THAT APPROACH WAS MADE, AND ASKED FOR COPY OF EMBASSY NOTE SO HE CAN PROMOTE THROUGH INTOURIST CHANNELS EMBASSY SUGGESTION THAT SOVIET PASSPORT/VISA AUTHORITIES (OVIR) STATION REPRESENTATIVE AT SHEREMETYEVO AIRPORT.

2. CONSOFF USED OPPORTUNITY TO INFORM ZAVORIN THAT SUCH DETENTIONS OCCUR IN LENINGRAD AS WELL. AS EXAMPLE OF IMPROPERLY ISSUED VISA, CONSOFF CITED ERROR IN VISA ISSUED TO CONGRESSMAN CEDERBER (HELSINKI REFTL) AND POINTED OUT THAT CEDERBERG IS RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF INFLUENTIAL HOUSE COMMITTEE. ZAVORIN MADE NOTE OF INCIDENT. (NB: TRAVELERS WHO ARRIVE IN LENINGRAD WITHOUT PROPER VISAS ARE FREQUENTLY EXPELLED RATHER THAN DETAINED, SINCE FACILITIES FOR OVERNIGHT DETENTION ARE APPARENTLY MORE LIMITED).

3. ZAVORIN THEN VOLUNTEERED THAT HE BECAME PERSONALLY INVOLVED

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RECENTLY IN ARRANGING ENTRY OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN WHO ARRIVED

AT MOSCOW AIRPORT WITHOUT VISA. ZAVORIN STATED THAT BUSINESS-MAN WAS AMONG EXHIBITORS AT RECENT US MEDICAL EQUIPMENT DISPLAY AT SOKOLNIKI PARK. ZAVORIN EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH FACT THAT BUSINESSMAN WAS ADMITTED, BUT HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT RESOLUTION THIS CASE TOOK SEVERAL HOURS. CONSOFF POINTED OUT IN THIS REGARD THAT EMBASSY APPROACH DEALT WITH TRAVELERS WHO WERE ALREADY VISAED FOR USSR, BUT WHOSE SOVIET VISAS WERE INCORRECTLY WRITTEN, A CATEGORY WHICH SHOULD OSTENSIBLY BE LESS COMPLICATED THAN ARRIVAL WITHOUT VISAS.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE FOLLOW-UP APPROACH BY DEPARTMENT TO SOVIET CONSUL ON ISSUE OF AIRPORT DETENTION/EXPULSIONS IN MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD. EXEMPT.
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